

# Year 1 Newsletter 16.1.26



## Welcome Back

We hope you all had a lovely break over Christmas and would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your kind gifts and cards last term—they were very much appreciated.

We are so impressed with how the children have returned to school after the Christmas break. We are especially proud of how well they have adapted to our new routines which include whole class tasks where everyone is working at their tables at the same time. The children have shown a great deal of independence and produced some wonderful work already. Well done, Year 1!

## Reading

We started our reading challenge this week so remember that to win a 'Golden Ticket' with a chance to be a 'boss of the week', the children must have read at home on at least three different occasions. Please record this in the children's reading diaries by circling the days they have read and you can also write a comment to let us know how they are getting on if you would like to. We love to know if the children are enjoying different books at home so please feel free to write this in their reading diaries too! The first few golden tickets have already been given out and we are looking forward to giving out lots more next week.



## Curriculum

This week we launched our new history topic 'Great Explorers'. We showed the children different pictures of an exciting event in the past and they had to use the pictures to help them suggest who and what we might be learning about.

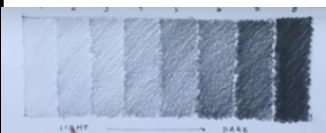
Our first explorer was Neil Armstrong. We discussed the challenges he might have faced and the qualities he needed to make him successful, such as courage, bravery, resilience, patience and determination. As we learn about other explorers over the next few weeks, we will begin to think about how these qualities could help us in our lives too.



In maths, we have been exploring the 100 square. First, we had to piece a broken 100 square back together and then we used it to quickly find different numbers. We have also been finding one more and one less than a given number and used our 100 squares to help us. This is something we will continue to practise in Year 1 so you could try quizzing us at home and see how quickly we can give you the answers.

In English we have been working hard on our letter formation of both upper and lower case letters. When writing sentences we have been using different colours for capital letters and full stops and this week have been working hard to remember to use capital letters for names too. We are focusing on sentence writing by improving sentences, building sentences and spotting sentences that have mistakes in them. All of these activities help us to develop our understanding of what a sentence is.

In computing, we learnt what an algorithm is and had fun following and creating algorithms to create some crazy characters. We discovered it was really important to be accurate with our instructions!



Art this week has been all about exploring how changing the pressure on our pencil can create light and dark shade. We will be using this knowledge throughout our unit on space art.

### Faith and Diversity Day

Last Friday we took part in a whole school celebration with a 'Faith and Diversity' day. We learned about some of the many different faiths in the world including Christianity, Buddhism, Sikhism, Islam and Hinduism. We talked about what makes us different from each other and the importance of understanding and accepting people's differences. We then created a piece of art work to celebrate the differences around us, e.g. different pieces of fruit, different hair styles, different families and different patterns to name a few.

### Listening Skills

As part of our learning in Year 1 we are continuing to work on our listening skills, helping the children to understand the importance of active listening, by looking at the person who is talking, sitting still so as not to distract others and listening to all the words. Through our oracy work we also learn to share our friend's ideas rather than our own, again this teaches the children to actively listen and remember what someone else has said. We play lots of games which focus on the skills needed to be a good listener. You might want to have a go at some listening games at home. Game 1 ask your child to leave the room, put some music on a tablet or phone and hide it in the room. Everyone else in the room has to be really quiet while the child uses their listening skills to find the phone or tablet. Game 2 play a game of Simon Says with your child. Ensure they are looking at you as you give each instruction.

### PSHE Challenge

Our PSHE this half term focuses on 'Dreams and Goals'. We are learning that to achieve a goal you need to work out the steps to success and then put in lots of practise until the goal has been achieved. We have also talked about how it feels to achieve a goal and what makes us feel proud.

As we have a number of children wearing shoes with laces to school, we thought this might be a good opportunity to set the children a goal of learning to tie their shoelaces. This is not an easy task and will take a little time, but will be a real achievement when they succeed. Good luck!



For your information we now have new email addresses in school.

[Karen.pringle@southridgefirst.org.uk](mailto:Karen.pringle@southridgefirst.org.uk)

[Catherine.cassidy@southridgefirst.org.uk](mailto:Catherine.cassidy@southridgefirst.org.uk)

### Dates for your Diary

Year 1 Book Look— Monday 2nd February 9.10-9.40am

Year 1 trip to the Centre for Life Tuesday 3rd February

Parent consultations - Monday 9th February & Tuesday 10th February 3:30-6:30pm

End of term - Friday 13th February



Southridge First School

'Proud to Make a Positive Impact'